

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4303

April 11, 2019

The Honorable Carl Risch
Assistant Secretary of State for Consular Affairs
Bureau of Consular Affairs
U.S. State Department
2201 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20520

Assistant Secretary Risch,

I write to you today to highlight an issue facing my constituents in Collin County, Texas. As you are aware, on March 19, 2019, the United States Department of State Bureau of Consular Affairs notified the Collin County District Clerk's office that the County's two Passport Acceptance Facilities located in McKinney and Plano would be permanently closed. I am concerned that many of my constituents will now have reduced access to passport services because of this closure.

My office has received numerous inquiries seeking to resolve this issue. Many individuals and families in North Texas are currently preparing for overseas summer travel and I am concerned this closure will make it more difficult for those in our community to obtain passports in a timely manner. As you know, certain individuals are ineligible to renew by mail and those applying for the first time must do so in person.

Collin County is fast approaching a million residents, and I am told that the District Clerk's offices in McKinney and Plano have handled nearly 40,000 passport applications each year. With the closure of these facilities, there are now only two Passport Acceptance Facility in Collin County that allow for walk-in passport services. All other passport acceptance sites in Collin County require appointments, and some of these are already fully booked beyond a month out.

Collin County is one of the fastest growing counties in the nation and is home to numerous Fortune 500 companies involved in foreign trade and international business. Mr. Assistant Secretary, I am writing to bring this matter to your attention and to ask that you consider the effect this decision will have on my community's access to important passport services.

Sincerely,


VAN TAYLOR
Member of Congress